THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) The Fifth Pay Commission recommendations in regard to general parity of career progression of ISM & H Physicians with General Duty Medical Officers of CHS have been implemented except conversion of some posts to Non-Functional Selection Grade which matter has been taken up with the appropriate authority.

Proposal for Documentation of the Herbal Medicines

1418. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for documenting the herbal medicines in the country in view of new patent laws;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard;

(c) whether there is any system of standardisation for such medicines; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to do something in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) The Government has established a Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) to document the Ayurvedic knowledge about the medicinal uses of plants which is already in the public domain, in an international patent classification (IPC) compatible format to prevent the grant of patents for therapeutic claims which are neither inventions nor discoveries.

(c) and (d) For standardization of Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani medicines, Government has set up 3 Pharmacopoeial Committees for Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani drugs separately. So far, standards of 258 Ayurvedic drugs of plant origin have been published in 3 Volumes of Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia of India. 385 more drugs of plant origin used in Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani systems have been allocated to laboratories to develop Pharmacopoeial standards. Unani Pharmacopoeia of India, Volume I containing 45 drugs has also been published.